

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 7/18/51

FROM : SAC, OMAHA

AIRMAIL SPECIAL DELIVERYSUBJECT: KENNETH ALLEN KITTS, was.,
YANCY DOUGLAS HARDY, was.,
[REDACTED]b6
b7CBENNIE BARONE, was., Et Al;
Laurens State Bank, Laurens, Iowa, 11/3/50;
BR-B and R; ITSP; E&R; HARBORING; ITSMV;
ACCESSORY AFTER THE FACT; MISPRISON OF FELONY
Bufile 91-5787The following inmates of the Federal Penitentiary at Terre Haute, Ind. are presently in Omaha [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]b6
b7C
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The U. S. Attorney, Omaha, Nebr., has advised that BELCASTRO and [REDACTED] have served in a highly satisfactory manner as witnesses in connection with instant case involving the charge against BENNIE BARONE, FBI #500634, of furnishing currency in exchange for silver money stolen by KITTS, BELCASTRO and HARDY from instant bank. BELCASTRO also presented [REDACTED] participation with KITTS and BELCASTRO in the burglary of the First National Bank of Springview, Nebr. on 9/20/50 (Bufile 91-5758).

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In the more distant past, as reflected in instant case, BELCASTRO and [REDACTED] along with their families, furnished most valuable assistance which, in turn, permitted the successful prosecution of KITTS, FBI #1018808, and HARDY, FBI #3045892 in the USDC, Mason City, Ia. in March, 1951. From the time of their apprehensions in November and December, 1950, [REDACTED] and BELCASTRO furnished information without reservation and at great personal danger concerning KITTS, HARDY and other members of the Omaha underworld. In addition, they did everything possible, and followed every instruction of this office, in attempting to assist in the location of KITTS while he was a fugitive 1/23 to 2/8/51. BELCASTRO's and [REDACTED] relatives received numerous threats which were aimed at intimidating BELCASTRO and [REDACTED]. In spite of this, these men continued to supply this office with information and evidence, and, at the appropriate time, testified fully. They advised Agents of this office and the USA at Sioux City, Ia. that they desired to break completely with the underworld in the Omaha area and not one act on their part has contradicted this intention.

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91-620

EX-113

cc Bufile 91-5758

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JHS

DIRECTOR, FBI
7/18/51

RE: KENNETH ALLEN KITTS, was., Et Al;
RE-B and R; ITSP; E&R; HARBORING; ITSMV;
ACCESSORY AFTER THE FACT; MISPRISON
OF FELONY

The details concerning this were submitted to the Bureau by teletype dated 7/11/51. This resulted in considerable additional publicity for KITTS. It is logical to expect that KITTS' future activity at the Penitentiary in connection with trials will continue to receive headlines for the next year. At the same time, individuals from the area covered by these newspapers will be continually sentenced to the USP at Terre Haute, Ind., and, thereby continually revive the fact that BELCASTRO and [] KITTS and other notorious Midwestern underworld figures. Therefore, it is believed by this office that a transfer as desired by BELCASTRO and [] would facilitate prosecution in future cases stemming from KITTS' activity and insuring greater safety to BELCASTRO and []. It is certain that without them as witnesses, there is little likelihood that BARONE, [] and possibly others can be successfully prosecuted on charges presently pending against them.

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BELCASTRO and [] spoke in highly commendatory terms of the administration of Terre Haute, but under no circumstances do they want their receipt of threatening notes to come to the attention of Terre Haute Penitentiary authorities, or to have same in any way reflected in their files at Terre Haute. They pointed out that certain trustees apparently have access to their files in the prison office and apparently do not handle the information therein in a confidential manner. In support of this opinion, BELCASTRO and [] revealed that they learned from the Penitentiary grapevine that their file jackets bear a note forbidding their transfer to the USP at Leavenworth, Kans., due to "enmity between co-defendants". It is to be noted that HARDY is incarcerated at Leavenworth.

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BELCASTRO and [] believe that the main threat to them and their accruable good time, and possibly their lives, are the Terre Haute inmates who have been transferred from El Reno and other reformatories and penitentiaries with a loss of all good time.

BELCASTRO and [] stated they are well satisfied with their assignments at Terre Haute. BELCASTRO works in the Dental Section, whereas [] is in the kitchen. They are apparently sincere in their stated intentions to do their sentences in the shortest possible time in order that they may return to their wives and children. In view of their past cooperation and the need for their future assistance, and in view of the necessity that they remain alive and cooperative, it would seem desirable at this time, if possible, to assist BELCASTRO and [] to secure a transfer to another Penitentiary. The USM, Omaha, Nebr., has advised that BELCASTRO and [] will not be returned to Terre Haute until the latter part of the week of 7/22/51, and possibly not until the week of 7/29/51.

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Therefore, the Bureau is respectfully requested to explore the possibility in the Bureau of Prisons to have BELCASTRO and [] transferred, as they have requested, to McNeil Island, Wash. (preferred), or some other Penitentiary, possibly in Texas, which ordinarily does not receive transfers from the Midwest.

Assistant Attorney General
James M. McInerney
Director, FBI

July 24, 1951

KENNETH ALLEN KITTS, was., et al
Laurens State Bank, Laurens, Iowa
November 1, 1950
BANK ROBBERY - BURGLARY; INTERSTATE
TRANSPORTATION OF STOLEN PROPERTY;
ESCAPE AND RESCUE; HARBORING;
INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF STOLEN MOTOR VEHICLE;
ACCESSORY AFTER THE FACT; HARBORING OF FELONY

On March 30, 1951, in the U. S. District Court,
Northern District of Iowa, at Sioux City, Iowa, Pasquale Joseph
Belcastro, was., following a plea of guilty, was sentenced to
ten years on each of four counts contained in an information
charging him with participation in the burglary of the Laurens
State Bank, Laurens, Iowa, on November 1, 1950. The sentences
to run concurrently. At the same time [REDACTED]
was., was sentenced to five years following his plea of guilty
to an information charging him with receiving money from Kitts,
Belcastro and Yancy Douglas Hardy, for fingering the Laurens
burglary. Both Belcastro and [REDACTED] are serving their sen-
tences at the Federal Penitentiary at Terre Haute, Indiana.

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Belcastro and [REDACTED] were principal Government
witnesses in the successful prosecution of Kenneth Allen Kitts
and Yancy Douglas Hardy, who were convicted in the U. S.
District Court, Sioux City, Iowa, on March 22, 1951, for their
participation in the burglary of captioned bank. Kitts was
sentenced to thirty years and Hardy to twenty years. At the
time of the trial of Kitts and Hardy there was considerable
newspaper publicity in the Omaha area and the fact that Belcastro
and [REDACTED] testified for the Government was prominently publicized.

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Belcastro and [REDACTED] have continued to cooperate
with Agents of this Bureau in furnishing information concerning
other federal violations in which Kitts, Hardy and their asso-
ciates were involved. Both Belcastro and [REDACTED] are presently
in Omaha as Federal Grand Jury witnesses. The U. S. Attorney at
Omaha, Nebraska, has advised that they have served in a highly
satisfactory manner as witnesses in connection with the charge
against Eddie Brown of furnishing currency in exchange for
silver money stolen by Kitts, Belcastro and Hardy from the Laurens
Bank. According to the U. S. Attorney, [REDACTED]

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Wolson
Ladd
Clegg
Glavin
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Harbo
Alden
Belmont
Laughlin
Mohr
Tele. Room
Nease
Gandy

RECORDED
EX-31
91-517-223
Mr. [REDACTED], Director
Bureau of Investigation
Omaha (71-620)
JUL 25 1951

FHS/mm

56 JUL 31 1951

cerning the participation of [redacted] with Kitta and Belcastro in the burglary of the First National Bank of Springfield, Nebraska, on September 20, 1950. It is to be noted with regard to the forthcoming trials of Harona and [redacted] at Omaha this fall, Belcastro and [redacted] will be essential witnesses. In addition, they will be very important in anticipated trials about December, 1951 at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where Repue and Kitta will be tried on the indictment for the burglary of the Farmers State Bank, Kaylor, South Dakota, September 7, 1950, and Hardy and Kitta will be tried on the indictment for the robbery of the First National Bank in Garrettsen, Garrettsen, South Dakota, October 4, 1950. In this connection, it should be noted that the successful prosecution of Harona and Repue could well be the vehicle through which some of the Midwest's unsolved bank robberies could be cleared up, based on information secured from [redacted] and Harona.

Belcastro and [redacted] advised that they are extremely desirous of a transfer from the U. S. Penitentiary at Terre Haute, Indiana, to a penitentiary which does not ordinarily receive convicts from the Midwest. They advised that they believed that it would be impossible for them to do their time in Terre Haute without losing considerable good time. Their reason for this belief was the finding in their cells at Terre Haute, several threatening notes bearing on the fact that they had testified against Kitta and Hardy, March, 1951, in U.S. Northern District of Iowa. They believe that these notes will be followed by violence when they return to Terre Haute, inasmuch as the penitentiary grapevine knew before they did that they were to be brought back to Omaha to testify before the present Grand Jury. They pointed out that they are sure that Terre Haute inmates who were sentenced in the Omaha area had publicized in the penitentiary the fact that they testified for the Government. They stated that they did not, and will not, advise penitentiary officials of the receipt of threatening notes, due to the fact that their experience and observations at Terre Haute indicate that threatened prisoners are locked up for safekeeping and not accorded certain privileges and must necessarily lose their freedom of movement in the penitentiary.

Belcastro and [redacted] spoke in highly commendatory terms of the administration of Terre Haute, but under an alibi, stated as they want their receipt of threatening notes to come to the attention of Terre Haute Penitentiary authorities, or to have some in any way reflected in their files at Terre Haute. They pointed out that certain trustees apparently have access to their files in the prison office and apparently do not handle the information therein as a confidential matter. In support

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Algen _____
Belmont _____
Laughlin _____
Mohr _____
Tele. Room _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____